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Longmont Police Detective Writes Children's Book "On a Dark, Dark Night"

Much-anticipated book addressing domestic violence released and ready for purchase

LONGMONT, Colo. – When Detective Sara Pierce saw the need for a children's book addressing domestic violence, she became determined to write one. The result is "On a Dark, Dark Night", an illustrated, hardbound children's book explaining domestic violence in a story format, using words and situations that young children understand.

"On a Dark, Dark Night" takes the reader through the experiences of a young polar bear cub after he witnesses his father strike his mother. The reader follows along as Cub finds help and support from his friend Moose and a new friend Eagle. The book touches on the very serious topic of domestic violence, but in a way that may help even the smallest children understand and cope with their own experiences.

The book illustrations were crafted from torn-and-cut handmade paper by Rebecca S. Lange and Ellen Schultz. Lange was involved with the book project since it's inception but sadly passed away in early 2008. Schultz came into the project in early 2009 and was able to reproduce illustrations very closely to Lange's unique style in order to complete the remainder of the book illustrations.

The Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (LEVI) published the book as part of their domestic violence prevention, education and awareness efforts. "On a Dark, Dark Night" is made possible due to donations by Rotary Clubs of Longmont (Longmont, St. Vrain, and Twin-Peaks), Rotary Club of Mead, Rotary Club of Erie, Rotary Club of Carbon Valley, the Boulder County District Attorney's Office, Nick Zelinger of NZ Graphics and United Graphics. All proceeds from the book will be set aside to fund future editions of the book.

"Writing a children's book is something I never imagined doing in my role as a police officer," said Officer Pierce, "domestic violence is such a hard subject to acknowledge, especially for children. Although the journey from start to finish was difficult, just knowing that this book may help one child cope and understand the situations they've experienced makes it all worth while."

In conjunction with the release of the book, author Sara Pierce and illustrator Ellen Schultz will be holding a launch party at the Longmont Public Library (409 4th Avenue) on Wednesday, December 2, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend this free event to celebrate the release of this much-anticipated book.

"On a Dark, Dark Night" is available for sale online at www.longmontdomesticviolence.org, and will also be available online at Amazon.com and eBay.com beginning Monday, November 23, 2009.

About Longmont Ending Violence Initiative

Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (LEVI) is an awareness project designed to enlist the entire community in an effort to reduce and control domestic violence. LEVI acknowledges domestic violence is a serious and prevalent social problem affecting the quality of life in Longmont. LEVI provides residents with access to services as well as the tools to aid friends, relatives and co-workers when signs of domestic violence exist. For more information, please visit www.longmontdomesticviolence.org.

ON A DARK, DARK NIGHT

By Sara B. Pierce

Illustrated by Rebecca S. Lange and Ellen Schultz

Longmont Ending Violence Initiative (LEVI)

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www.LongmontDomesticViolence.org

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